



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

PSYCHIATRIC SECURITY REVIEW BOARD

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Ellen Lachance, Executive Director

Appropriations Committee Testimony

February 22, 2012

Good morning Senator Harp and Representative Walker. I am Ellen Lachance, the Executive Director of the Psychiatric Security Review Board. I appear before you today to request the committee's support of Governor Malloy's recommended budget.

The Board has jurisdiction over all persons who have been found not guilty of a crime by reason of mental disease or defect and committed to the jurisdiction of the Board by Superior Court. The Board orders the confinement of those individuals to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services or to the Department of Developmental Services.

The Board is composed of six members, appointed by the Governor for their expertise. The Chairman is an attorney and the remaining members include a psychiatrist, psychologist, probation expert, an individual with experience in victim advocacy and a member of the general public.

The statutory mandate of the Board is the protection of society and that goal is accomplished through Board ordered treatment and placement of individuals committed to the Board. At the close of calendar year 2011, there were approximately 144 individuals under the Board's jurisdiction. Most of those individuals were confined to a hospital setting with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and approximately 22% were residing on Conditional Release status in the community. The Board maintains an excellent public safety record, maintaining a zero percent criminal recidivism rate for individuals living in the community while monitored through Board-ordered supervision.

To further enhance state government efficiencies, it is proposed that the Board's operations be merged with the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Additional changes include the reduction of one staff position, following the retirement of the Board's Executive Secretary.

The Board has a significant role in safeguarding Connecticut's citizens while at the same time, ensuring appropriate treatment services for those under its jurisdiction. The Appropriations Committee's favorable action on the recommended budget will ensure the Board can continue to effectively monitor insanity acquittees. I will be happy to respond to any questions.